

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

OSMA-7149

Army

Chief of Base, Frankfurt

22 Mar 56

Chief, CLS

INFO: CO3, SR

Operational/R-UNWOOD/ALMARSH

JANUMS, Col. Vilis

Ref: FROB-2516, 24 Jan 56

COPY ROUTING	
1	L
2	Z
3	Z
4	B/L
5	

A check of CIC files revealed the following information:

a. Subject was born 7 January 1894 in Code, Kreis Bauske, Latvia. He attended grammar and high school from 1900-13. In 1914 he entered the Russian Academy, RUSSISCHE JUNGER SCHULE, at Oranienburg (near Petrograd), where he remained until 1916. In 1919 Subject entered the Latvian Army as a Lieutenant, and in 1921 he was promoted to Captain. From 1921-28 Subject was Company Commander in the II WINDAUSCHKE Regiment stationed at Liebau, Latvia. From 1928-30 he studied general tactics at the Czech War Academy. From 1930-34 he was Commanding Officer of the II Ordnance Section of the Latvian General Staff. From 1934-39 Subject was an instructor in general and infantry tactics at the Latvian War Academy. From 1939-40 he was Chief of Staff of the 1st KURLANDER Division. Subject gave no background information during the first Soviet occupation of Latvia. During the German occupation, Subject stated that he held a minor civil post in Riga until 1943, when he became a member of the Latvian Legion serving as Regimental Commander of the 33rd Grenadier Regiment, 15th Division. In 1945, Subject's regiment, while located in Neu Brandenburg, was issued bazookas and instructed to proceed to the defense of Berlin. Instead Subject took his unit to West Prussia where he surrendered to American units. Subject was confined in a POW cage until 13 March 1946. (P-3)

b. In February 1948 Subject was interviewed in Darmstadt concerning the Daugavas Vanagi. (B-2) According to Subject, the Daugavas Vanagi was first organized in 1946 in Belgium. In early 1947 it transferred its Headquarters to Luebeck in the British Zone and functioned under the leadership of Subject. The original purpose of the Daugavas Vanagi was to care for the Latvian invalids, widows, and orphans of former Latvian soldiers. This was made possible by sponsoring various educational forums, concerts, and voluntary contributions designated to aid those incapable of self-support. The organization was instrumental in combatting Communist propaganda that was brought to Baltic DP camps either by Soviet Repatriation Mission officers or their satellites. Subject stated that the Soviet propaganda was studied for its weaknesses and these in turn were brought to the attention of the people through lectures conducted by the Daugavas Vanagi. Also instrumental in aiding the organization in combatting propa-

RI COPY E

FOR COORDINATION WITH

US Army

EGSA-7149
22 Mar 56
Page 2

ganda was the receipt of coded mail from sources in Latvia as well as information received from returning German POWs or newly arriving Latvians. According to Subject, the Daugavas Vanagi in 1948 was proceeding with a plan to organize a Latvian Army Division that could be used by the Americans or British in the event of a Soviet attack. The set assembly point thus far selected was the right bank of the Rhine River in the British Zone at the Latvian DP camp BUCHHOLD. At the time Subject stated that no firearms were available; however, it was hoped that the Daugavas Vanagi would be able to receive arms from either the British or American forces in time of need. (F-3)

c. In April 1948 a session of the Latvian Central Council was held in the Central Displaced Persons Camp in Wurzburg. The members present decided that the Latvians needed an organization that would be representative of all the Latvian people and would include representatives of all the Latvian organizations in exile. This new council would be the highest Latvian organization in exile. The organization was named the Latviesu Nacionals Padoms (Latvian National Council) (INP). The first regular meeting of the INP took place in July 1948 at the DP Secondary school building in the Latvian DP Camp in Esslingen. It was the first time since 1940 that practically all the high-ranking Latvian officers and politicians in exile had assembled. At this meeting Subject was elected a member of the Permanent Presiding Committee (the Praesidium). Of the nine members of the Praesidium, the majority belonged to the Col. V. JANUMS Group, Daugavas Vanagi. (B-2) Information dated July 1950 states that the Chairman of the Latvian Relief Association, Daugavas Vanagi, and the vice-president of the Latvian National Council, Subject, proposed that the Latvian organizations in England, Sweden, France, Belgium, United States, Canada, and Argentina should write a memorandum to be sent to their representatives in the International Refugee Organization in an endeavor to change the attitude of the IRO in regard to former members of the Latvian Legion and the Latvian Home Guard. (B-2)

Dist:
2-FOB(DIRECT)
3-COS
4-Washington

RECEIVED